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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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February 15, 2006

Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We write to reiterate our December 19 request (enclosed) that you convene hearings as soon as possible to investigate the espionage of persons inside the United States by the National Security Agency (NSA) at the request of the President without court-ordered warrants. We also write to voice our concerns about the notice and substance of a briefing held on February 13 regarding this matter and ask that an additional briefing be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time.

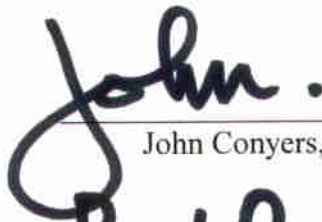
On Saturday, February 11 at 11:14 am, by email, we received notice that a "unclassified briefing by DOJ on NSA surveillance program [w]ill be held at 3 pm on Monday, Feb 13th." Because of this lack of notice, only one Democratic Member was able to attend this briefing.

As to the substance of this briefing, Justice Department officials were unable or unwilling to answer a number of questions about the Department's purported legal justifications for the program and the process within the Department for developing these justifications. We are enclosing a list of questions that remain unanswered by the Department and ask that you, in your capacity as Chairman, direct the Department to answer these questions quickly.

Notwithstanding these objections, we believe the briefing does not obviate the Committee's need to hold hearings on this matter. We also do not believe your February 8 letter, in which you asked the Attorney General questions about this program, is sufficient to forestall the need for hearings. Only through hearings can we receive testimony, establish an official record and, where appropriate, offer the public a thorough airing of these issues. Following the regular order will also assure that the Committee is fully informed in determining what legislative responses, if any, are required. The Senate Judiciary Committee began such hearings last week and we believe it essential that the House Judiciary Committee do the same as expeditiously as possible.

We thank you in advance for your immediate attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

  
John Conyers, Jr.

  
Rick Boucher

  
Robert C. Scott

  
Zoe Lofgren

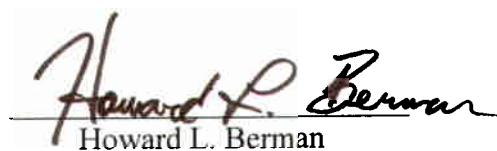
  
Maxine Waters

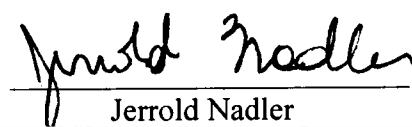
  
William D. Delahunt

  
Anthony D. Weiner

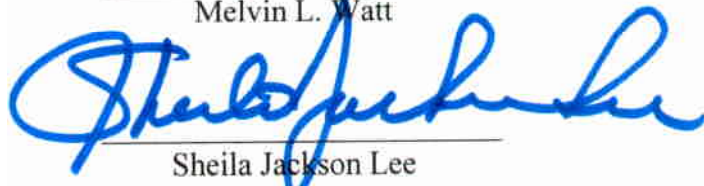
  
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